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70-5118

9 October 1970

DD/S 70-4245

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT : The Drug Problem Among Dependents Abroad

25X1A 1. We have noted in recent months from reports of interviews with returnees that many parents are deeply concerned over the problem of narcotics abroad. They have repeatedly remarked that in some areas of the world the supply of drugs is abundant, access to them is easily had, and they are cheap. [REDACTED] has been mentioned several times as one of the most worrisome spots.

2. The TSD survey team reported at our staff meeting on 1 October that they had found instances of TSD employees' careers having been hurt by early returns from abroad as a consequence of dependent involvement with drugs or from refusal to accept an overseas assignment out of fear of the drug problem. You asked that I find out what the Agency is doing to try to cope with the problem and if we are doing all that we should be doing.

3. I spoke separately with representatives of FE and EUR Divisions and the Offices of Security, Training, and Medical Services. I found no disagreement among them on matters of general concern. The following paragraphs summarize the main points that emerged from these conversations.

4. The Dimensions of the Problem

a. Drug use among dependents abroad does not differ in discernible degree from use among comparable age groups in the Washington area, nor is there any one area abroad that is noticeably worse than the other trouble spots.

b. Police authorities in some areas abroad take a harsh view of involvement with drugs, and the consequences of being caught are likely to be serious.

25X1A c. Narcotics of all types, and the more dangerous ones in particular, are cheap and easily obtainable in some overseas areas. Southeast Asia and [REDACTED] were cited as examples. However, the dependent who is so inclined can likewise find them here at home.

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d. [REDACTED] holds that the problem of narcotics among young people cannot be divorced from the problem of alcohol among adults. Both pose formidable and essentially identical problems of definition, recognition, and treatment.

e. Family separation weakens parental control and increases the risk of delinquency. Separation can result from a without-family assignment for the father or from having to send a child to a third country for schooling.

f. The company that a young person keeps here in the States may be an early flag to something amiss. Children abroad are limited in their choices of associates, and that flag may be missing.

g. Parents are apt to devote less time to their children overseas than they do here at home. The fathers often work off hours, and where servants are available there is a tendency to rely on the servants for much of the management of the children.

h. When a drug problem appears in a family abroad, we are more likely to hear of it than if it happened in the Washington area--and to look upon it as an Agency problem rather than as merely a family problem.

##### 5. What We Are Doing About It

a. The Office of Medical Services, according to [REDACTED] is "picking up speed" on the problem. They have discussed the problem repeatedly among themselves and receive reports from their doctors assigned abroad. A presentation on narcotics has been worked up, and it was given at a recent DDS staff meeting. The display materials associated with the presentation are to be exhibited in the first floor corridor. There is some OMS input to OTR training courses on the drug problem.

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b. The Office of Security follows individual cases as they arise, maintains data on an area basis, and in briefings of employees going abroad includes coverage of the drug situation in pertinent areas as it is known to Security.

c. The Office of Training has one hour scheduled in the new supervision course, which begins next week, for a presentation by OMS on the drug problem. There are no formal presentations on the subject

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in the Chiefs of Station Seminar or the Mid-Career Course, although the topic may be covered in round-table or bull sessions.

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d. [REDACTED] Agency Book Dispatch No. 7418, dated 25 May 1970, alert personnel to the drug problem abroad, but primarily from the standpoint of the harsh treatment of offenders by police authorities abroad.

e. There is to be a two-day presentation in the auditorium next week on the subject of narcotics. I understand that applications exceed auditorium capacity by about 200.

f. FE and EUR Divisions, the only two with which I checked, do not have programs aimed specifically at the drug problem in itself. They try to screen out and not send abroad families with real or potential problems, including that of drugs. They react promptly to problem situations that arise in families abroad. There was a drug problem in [REDACTED] a few months ago, the precise details of which are unknown to me. FE and Security worked together in cleaning it up.

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g. FE Division appears to be and to have been so absorbed with the range of problems posed by stationing [REDACTED] families in safehavens abroad and by leaving fatherless families here in the States that they have not had time to sort out and deal individually with the many separate problems.

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6. Is There Anything Additional We Should Be Doing?

I drew close to a blank on this question from those with whom I spoke. The consensus seemed to be that there is little additional that we might reasonably attempt that could be expected to have any noticeable effect in alleviating the problem. The thrust of the few positive comments on the point was to the effect that the conduct of the dependents is basically for the concern of the parents. However, in the interests of employee well-being and of heading off situations that could prove costly and embarrassing to the Agency, we probably should review the Agency's posture with regard to drugs annually. The Personnel Medical Security Committee might be given this task, and Director of Personnel might be asked to report findings to the Director.

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[REDACTED]  
Deputy Inspector General

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1	Director of Medical Services 1D4060 HQS	OCT 21 1970	ww		
2					
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6					
X	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY		
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION		
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN		
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE		
<b>Remarks:</b> John: Please note the attached report dated 9 October from [REDACTED] and the Executive Director's comment on the routing slip. I will be away so would you please get in touch with Jack Coffey and meet with the Executive Director with any additional suggestions as to how to deal with this problem. One suggestion would be a meeting of a representative of Security or Medical with the entire family going overseas. At such a meeting there could be a very frank discussion of the drug problem and what will happen to both the parent-employee and the family should there be any incidents. <div style="text-align: right;">[REDACTED] R. L. Bannerman</div>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
Deputy Director for Support 7D26 HQS x-5454					10/21/70
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Remarks: Sometime ago you John T. and I talked about this problem. as I recall it, you were going to come back to me when you had done some more thinking about it?			
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Remarks: <i>Real</i> <i>Forwarded as per</i> <i>our conversation</i> <i>Friday.</i> 			
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
Inspector General <i>[Signature]</i>			10/9/70
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